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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

I AM a conſtant reader of your papers, and congratulate you upon the men of wit you have for your correſpondents. I do not pretend to add to the number, and ſhall only attempt to furniſh you with a few hints, which conſidered and formed into order by a writer of your ability, may poſſibly be productive of entertainment (at leaſt) to the public.

YOUR

YOUR letters upon the modern taſte in gardening are in my judgment excellent in their kind; and ſo indeed are thoſe upon architecture, as far as they go: but methinks you have not carried your obſervations quite far enough; nor have you any where remarked the injuſtice and ingratitude with which thoſe worthy patriots are treated, who ruin their eſtates, or lay out the fortunes of their younger children on their ſeats and villas, to the great embelliſhment of this kingdom, which (if it is not already one great and compleat garden) contains at leaſt more ſumptuous country houſes, parks, gardens, temples and buildings, than all the reſt of Europe. If you are in danger of loſing yourſelf on the vaſt and dreary waſtes of ſome comfortleſs heath, and are directed on your courſe by a friendly beacon of prodigous height, you are told that this is ſuch a gentleman's FOLLY. The munificence of a man of taſte raiſes at an immoderate expence a column or turret in his garden, for no other purpoſe than the generous one of giving delight and wonder to travellers; and the ungrateful public calls it his FOLLY. Nay, were her late majeſty queen Anne, of pious memory, to reign again, and fifty new churches to be really built, I doubt if in this diſſolute age, this alſo might not be called her majeſty's FOLLY.

BUT notwithſtanding theſe diſcouragements, I am daily entertained with new beauties; and it is with great impatience that I wait the completion of a Chineſe temple, now riſing on the top of a very elegant villa upon the road ſide near Brompton. I have often too with great ſatisfaction beheld a ſtructure of this kind, on the top of a very handſome green-houſe, now in the poſſeſſion of a noble foreigner

foreigner at Turnham-green; which, as I am informed, is matter of great curioſity to his countrymen who frequent it; nothing of this ſort being to be met with in the environs of Paris, or indeed of Pekin itſelf, or in any country but this. A moſt majeſtic peacock, as big as the life, on the ſpindle of a weather-cock, adds alſo to it's merit; which with all the beauty of the bird itſelf, has not it's diſagreable vociferous quality; and though it does not foretell by it's noiſe a change in the weather, it informs you with more certainty of the variation of the wind.

I AM ſomewhat of an invalid; and being ſenſible how much exerciſe conduces to health, I ſeldom fail, when the weather does not allow me the uſe of my phyſician a trotting horſe to take a flurry (as it is elegantly called) in a hackney coach; which affords exerciſe to the imagination as well as the body, and creates thinking (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) as much as it does an appetite. The air of buſineſs in the crowds that are conſtantly paſſing; the variety of the equipages, and the new and extraordinary ſights that ſtill preſent themſelves in this great metropolis, the center of trade, induſtry and invention, fill my mind with ideas, which if they do not always inſtruct, at leaſt amuſe me.

I TAKE great pleaſure in gueſſing at the ranks and profeſſions of men by their appearance; and though I may now and then be miſtaken, yet I am generally in the right. Once indeed I miſtook a right reverend divine, on the other ſide Temple-bar, for a jew, till the mitre on his coach convinced me of my error; as I alſo did a jew, by the decorations on his chariot, for a peer

of

of the realm. And indeed, Mr. Fitz-Adam, ſince the herald's office has ſuſpended it's authority, it is ſurpriſing what liberties are taken with the arms of the firſt families in the kingdom; inſomuch that a man muſt have a quick eye who can diſtinguiſh between the pillars, flower-pots and other inventions of the curious painter, and the ſupporters of the nobility. But what moſt of all perplex me are the ornaments, after the Chineſe manner, over the arms by way of coronet: and were not theſe diſtinctions confined ſolely to Europe, I ſhould ſometimes be in danger of miſtaking an India director for a Mandarin.

It has not eſcaped your notice how much of late we are improved in architecture; not merely by the adoption of what we call Chineſe, nor by the reſtoration of what we call Gothic; but by a happy mixture of both. From Hyde-park to Shoreditch ſcarce a chandler's-ſhop, or an oyſter-ſtall but has it's embelliſhments of this kind; and I have heard that there is a deſign againſt the meeting of the new parliament to fit up St Stephen's chappel with Chineſe benches and a throne, from the model of that on which that Eaſtern monarch diſtributes juſtice to his extenſive empires. It is whiſpered alſo that the portico to Covent-garden church is to give place to one of the Gothic order. But before I leave the city, let me not neglect to do juſtice to that excellent engineer, the great paſtry-cook in St Paul's church-yard. My good fortune conducted me thither on twelfth day; when ſeeing a vaſt concourſe of people aſſembled, my ruling paſſion, curioſity, engaged me to quit my vehicle to partake in the ſatisfaction ſo viſible in all their countenances. But how ſhall I deſcribe the pomp and parade

of

of ſo noble an appearance? The triumph of a lord mayor's day is nothing to it, though, if I miſtake not, thoſe brave and faithful guardians of the wealth and ſafety of the city, the train-bands and militia, make a moſt comely and warlike appearance: for not to mention the flags ſhining with ſilver and gold; troops innumerable of gingerbread both horſe and foot, finer in their uniforms than the French king's houſhold; there was not even the ſmalleſt minced pye, but for it's ſtrength and juſt proportion was equal at leaſt to the *chef-d'œuvre* of a Vauban or a Cohorn. But what above all excited my praiſe and admiration was a citadel of an enormous magnitude, that would have appeared impregnable to a whole army of Dutchmen, had it not been for ſeveral breaches that had been made in it by ſome ſmall field pieces of copper: but this indeed aſtoniſhed me the leſs, having been told that the towns in Flanders which coſt ſo much blood; which were ſo ſtubbornly diſputed in the former war; and which fell ſo eaſily into the hands of the immortal SAXE in ſeventeen hundred and forty four, were chiefly obtained by an ordinance of this kind, though ſomewhat heavier in it's quality.

AND now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, if I was not afraid of troubling you with more obſervations, I ſhould lead you again into the country. But were I to expatiate on the hermitages, and ſylvan temples, formed like the earths of thoſe inſtructive builders, the badgers (from whom the hint was taken) and furniſhed with ivy, moſs, cobwebs and ſtraw-beds, with all the elegance of primitive ſimplicity, contraſting the magnificent ſtructures of our moſt

moſt favourite architects, I fear my letter would exceed your patience. I ſhall therefore defer, at leaſt, theſe moſt important ſubjects, till I find how theſe my obſervations have been received; and whether you do them juſtice or not, I ſhall continue

Your conſtant admirer.

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